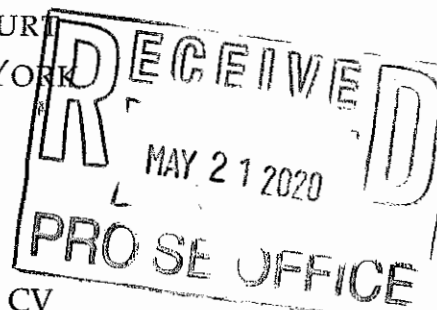


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Melissa Newton, M.



Write the full name of each plaintiff.

CV
(Include case number if one has been assigned)

-against-

Jeff Bezos

Do you want a jury trial?

☐ Yes ☐ No

20-cv-3993

Write the full name of each defendant. The names listed above must be identical to those contained in Section I.

EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT

NOTICE

The public can access electronic court files. For privacy and security reasons, papers filed with the court should therefore *not* contain: an individual's full social security number or full birth date; the full name of a person known to be a minor; or a complete financial account number. A filing may include *only*: the last four digits of a social security number; the year of an individual's birth; a minor's initials; and the last four digits of a financial account number. See Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2.

I. PARTIES**A. Plaintiff Information**

Provide the following information for each plaintiff named in the complaint. Attach additional pages if needed.

Melissa M. Newton
 First Name Middle Initial Last Name
172 Fifth Ave. #1312
 Street Address
Kings, Brooklyn NY 11217
 County, City State Zip Code
212-470-3783 newtonmelissa@aol.com
 Telephone Number Email Address (if available)

B. Defendant Information

To the best of your ability, provide addresses where each defendant may be served. If the correct information is not provided, it could delay or prevent service of the complaint on the defendant. Make sure that the defendants listed below are the same as those listed in the caption. (Proper defendants under employment discrimination statutes are usually employers, labor organizations, or employment agencies.) Attach additional pages if needed.

Defendant 1:

Jeff Bezos
 Name
P.O. Box 907
 Address where defendant may be served
Bellevue, WA 98009
 County, City State Zip Code

Defendant 2:

Name
 Address where defendant may be served
 County, City State Zip Code

Defendant 3:

Name

Address where defendant may be served

County, City

State

Zip Code

II. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

The address at which I was employed or sought employment by the defendant(s) is:

Whole Foods (Tribeca)

Name

260 Greenwich St.

Address

New York, NY

10007

County, City

State

Zip Code

III. CAUSE OF ACTION**A. Federal Claims**

This employment discrimination lawsuit is brought under (check only the options below that apply in your case):

- ☐ **Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964**, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e to 2000e-17, for employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin

The defendant discriminated against me because of my (check only those that apply and explain):

☐ race:☐ color:☐ religion:☐ sex:☐ national origin:

(MS)

- ☐ **42 U.S.C. § 1981**, for intentional employment discrimination on the basis of race

My race is: _____

- ☐ **Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967**, 29 U.S.C. §§ 621 to 634, for employment discrimination on the basis of age (40 or older)

I was born in the year: _____

- ☐ **Rehabilitation Act of 1973**, 29 U.S.C. §§ 701 to 796, for employment discrimination on the basis of a disability by an employer that constitutes a program or activity receiving federal financial assistance

My disability or perceived disability is: _____

- ☒ **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990**, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 to 12213, for employment discrimination on the basis of a disability

My disability or perceived disability is: Bipolar, Schizophrenia

- ☐ **Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993**, 29 U.S.C. §§ 2601 to 2654, for employment discrimination on the basis of leave for qualified medical or family reasons

B. Other Claims

In addition to my federal claims listed above, I assert claims under:

- ☒ **New York State Human Rights Law**, N.Y. Exec. Law §§ 290 to 297, for employment discrimination on the basis of age, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, sex, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, marital status
- ☐ **New York City Human Rights Law**, N.Y. City Admin. Code §§ 8-101 to 131, for employment discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived age, race, creed, color, national origin, gender, disability, marital status, partnership status, sexual orientation, alienage, citizenship status
- ☐ Other (may include other relevant federal, state, city, or county law): _____

IV. STATEMENT OF CLAIM**A. Adverse Employment Action**

The defendant or defendants in this case took the following adverse employment actions against me (check only those that apply):

- ☐ did not hire me
- ☒ terminated my employment
- ☒ did not promote me
- ☐ did not accommodate my disability
- ☐ provided me with terms and conditions of employment different from those of similar employees
- ☒ retaliated against me
- ☐ harassed me or created a hostile work environment
- ☐ other (specify): interrupted my scheduled breaks

B. Facts

State here the facts that support your claim. Attach additional pages if needed. You should explain what actions defendants took (or failed to take) *because of* your protected characteristic, such as your race, disability, age, or religion. Include times and locations, if possible. State whether defendants are continuing to commit these acts against you.

not people in my place and did not consider my own effort and the need to support my schedule

They failed to consider that I had ran out of PTO time and could not afford to be sent home early. They put themselves in a position to continue to control or maneuver my schedule. I had used my PTO time to comfort my unstable schedules and break times. I also had not continued medication and therapy.

As additional support for your claim, you may attach any charge of discrimination that you filed with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the New York State Division of Human Rights, the New York City Commission on Human Rights, or any other government agency.

as a means of being committed to a full time schedule and employment at wholefoods.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

For most claims under the federal employment discrimination statutes, before filing a lawsuit, you must first file a charge with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and receive a Notice of Right to Sue.

Did you file a charge of discrimination against the defendant(s) with the EEOC or any other government agency?

☒ Yes (Please attach a copy of the charge to this complaint.)

When did you file your charge?

Dec. 27, 2019

☐ No

Have you received a Notice of Right to Sue from the EEOC?

☒ Yes (Please attach a copy of the Notice of Right to Sue.)

What is the date on the Notice?

12/27/19

When did you receive the Notice?

12/27/19

☐ No

VI. RELIEF

The relief I want the court to order is (check only those that apply):

☐ direct the defendant to hire me

☐ direct the defendant to re-employ me

☐ direct the defendant to promote me

☐ direct the defendant to reasonably accommodate my religion

☐ direct the defendant to reasonably accommodate my disability

☒ direct the defendant to (specify) (if you believe you are entitled to money damages, explain that here)

I have suffered emotional distress and
mood disorder in addition to what I had
before. I am sure it is because I was in
between wrongful termination and quitting
as a result of a toxic work environment.
Damages: 2,000,000.00.

VII. PLAINTIFF'S CERTIFICATION

By signing below, I certify to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief that: (1) the complaint is not being presented for an improper purpose (such as to harass, cause unnecessary delay, or needlessly increase the cost of litigation); (2) the claims are supported by existing law or by a nonfrivolous argument to change existing law; (3) the factual contentions have evidentiary support or, if specifically so identified, will likely have evidentiary support after a reasonable opportunity for further investigation or discovery; and (4) the complaint otherwise complies with the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11.

I agree to notify the Clerk's Office in writing of any changes to my mailing address. I understand that my failure to keep a current address on file with the Clerk's Office may result in the dismissal of my case.

Each Plaintiff must sign and date the complaint. Attach additional pages if necessary. If seeking to proceed without prepayment of fees, each plaintiff must also submit an IFP application.

5/10/20
 Dated

Melissa Newton
 Plaintiff's Signature

Melissa M. Newton
 First Name Middle Initial Last Name

172 Fifth Ave. #132
 Street Address

Kings Brooklyn NY 11217
 County, City State Zip Code

212-470-3783
 Telephone Number

newtonmelissa@aol.com
 Email Address (if available)

I have read the attached Pro Se (Nonprisoner) Consent to Receive Documents Electronically:

☒ Yes ☐ No

If you do consent to receive documents electronically, submit the completed form with your complaint. If you do not consent, please do not attach the form.



U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION
New York District Office

33 Whitehall Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10004-2112
For General Information: (800) 669-4000
TTY: (800)-669-6820
District Office: (212) 336-3630
General FAX: (212) 336-3625

Ms. Melissa M. Newton
593 Vanderbilt Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11238

Re: Melissa Newton v. Wholefoods Market
EEOC Charge No.: 520- 2020 - 01449

Dear Ms. Newton:

We have received your request for a Notice of Right(s) to Sue. Less than 180 days have passed since the filing of this charge, but I have determined that it is unlikely that the EEOC will be able to complete its administrative processing within 180 days from the filing of this charge. Enclosed is the Notice of Right(s) to Sue.

On behalf of the Commission,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kevin J. Berry", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Kevin J. Berry,
District Director

December 27, 2019

Dated

Attn.: John H. Hempfling II, Esq.
Wholefoods Market
Global Litigation Counsel
550 Bowie Street
Austin, TX 78703

EEOC (INQUIRY) NUMBER: 520-2020-01449

Inquiry Information

REASON(S) FOR CLAIM

Date of Incident (Approximate): 12/07/2019

Reason for Complaint: Sex (including pregnancy, sexual orientation and gender identity), Disability, Retaliation - I filed a charge of job discrimination about any of the above, Retaliation - I contacted a government agency to complain about job discrimination, Retaliation - I complained to my employer about job discrimination, Genetic information, my family medical history, or my participation in genetic services like counseling, education or testing

Pay Disparity: No

Location of Incident: New York

Submission (initial inquiry) Date: 12/13/2019

Claim previously filed as charge with EEOC? No

Approximate Date of Filing: N/A

Charge Number: N/A

Claim previously filed as complaint with another Agency? No

Agency Name: N/A

Approximate Date of Filing: N/A

Nature of Complaint: N/A

INQUIRY OFFICE

Receiving: New York District Office

Accountable: New York District Office

APPOINTMENT

Appointment Date and time:

Interview Type:

APPROXIMATE DEADLINE FOR FILING A CHARGE: 10/02/2020

POTENTIAL CHARGING PARTY

First Name, Middle Initial: Melissa, M

Last Name: Newton

Street or Mailing Address: 593 Vanderbilt Ave

Address Line 2: n/a

City, State, Zip: BROOKLYN, NY, 11238

Country: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Year of Birth:

Email Address: newtonmelissa@aol.com

Home Phone Number: (212) 470-3783

Cell Phone Number: (212) 470-3783

RESPONDENT

Organization Name: WHOLEFOODS MARKET

Type of Employer: Business or non-profit organization that I applied to, work for, or worked for

Number of Employees: An uncertain number of employees

Street or Mailing Address: 260 Greenwich st.

Address Line 2:

City, State, Zip Code: NYC,NY, 10007

County: Kings

Phone Number: (212) 470-3783

RESPONDENT CONTACT

First and Last Name: Bryan Simpson

Email Address: Bryan.simpsons@wholefoods.com

Phone Number:

Title: Human Resources Director or Owner

LOCATION OF POTENTIAL CHARGING PARTY'S EMPLOYMENT

Street or Mailing Address:

Address Line 2:

City, State, Zip Code:

County:

POTENTIAL CHARGING PARTY'S DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender: F

Disabled: I have a disability

Are you Hispanic or Latino? not hispanic or latino

Ethnicity: Black or African American,

National Origin: American(U.S.)

Adverse Action(s)

I was harrassed and told to come up stairs out of the ordinary then told to go back down stairs and do a task out of the ordinary (and then I was called over the loud speaker 3 times out of the ordinary. I was told to punch out on the time clock and go home out of the ordinary. I observed my co-worker in a frenzy as she ran me through all of this. The next day I was told I would be on Admin leave. At this point I cannot cover my missing hours. I was told I will be put on Admin leave for the days I am scheduled and that the company will make sure that any of my hours I had planned in good standing already (she) would apply for me in the total. I was confronted by 2 team leaders with no good reason for the confrontation. Also it was roughly about my break time which is always not in the manner it is set for on my schedule. Someone else takes their break instead of me when I'm scheduled.

Supplemental Information

What Reason(s) were you given for the action taken against you?

I'm not sure.

Was anyone in a similar situation treated the same, better, or worse than you?

There was a female named Shakira and you can only use the Kronos app as a means of proof of this and this situation on December 7th 2019. I believe it to be a retaliation attack on their behalves. I don't remember the date but I'm sure this is less than 60 days ago from Dec. 7th, but they have it documented anyway. It came to a dispute about my break time and they had it scheduled incorrectly and it became personal when she stated to me that I had an attitude when my break is not on her schedule in the correct time. I was being discriminated on as a cashier because I was not a supervisor or team leader also when it came to breaks my breaks were mostly either behind schedule or before schedule. Their registers are always going down and not in good function or even working at all. Since

September of 2019, there have been at least ten registers broken at one time any or all of these things are the same and can be investigated and identified right now. There is also too much hanging out by the side exit by Warren St. and about the freezer area. Register 4 on the local side is broken, register 6 on the local side is broken, registers 14 and 15 on the local side are broken, the telephone does not work and also the light for the customers to self scan their discount membership are not in tact or not working at all. Any employees that works their goes through the same thing. Also 10 and 11 on the local the light is not working and we have to alert customers that the register is open because they can't tell. Also no. 8 and no.7 are broken or the lights are not working and also the same with no.1 on the local broken and the light is not working. Any express register from 1to 5 is completely out of order with out a doubt completely. This is the order I noted this. There is also proof of poor timekeeping. They have to keep record of punching in and punching out and missed punches and this means if you make no effort at all to keep up yourself then you are the entire victim their making.

Please provide name(s) and email and/or phone number of anyone who will support your claim, and briefly describe the information this person will provide.

You make contact them the staff entirely and they will give supporting evidence. All reports of their note taking, their emails, the phone calls they have everything documented. Bryan Simson the HR manager will be able to remember that I said I am taking it to court and I'm sure he knows he is on a recorded line.

Please tell us any other information about your experience?

My training material that I covered is assigned as overdue also it was not turned in by the staff. I already completed it. There toxic work environment.. They have personal lives together with each other outside of their workdays and they are not more excited to be at work and conduct them selves professionally.

*Date of Incident: 12/7/2019

Time of Incident: 12:00 PM (Proof of the exact and official time will be available if requested. The time provided is believed to be as close to the actual time if not the actual time.

*Manner in which claim arose:

Extra sheet(s) are attached.

Claim arose from discrimination. I found that I was being harassed as a retaliatory attack when I was told by a supervisory at my register that I was asked to close my line and come upstairs where another supervisor needed to see me and this was also as it was approaching my break. I arrive upstairs and I was told to go back downstairs and do another task separate from the job I was just doing at the register. No comments or acknowledgements were made about my break time as usual. As I started to go about my given duty I was called over the loud speaker 3 times by the same supervisor that just sent me back down stairs to put away grocery items back to the shelves. I was told to go back to my register by her and then the supposed head supervisor or team leader over this supervisor told me to go upstairs and punch out on the time clock and go home out of the ordinary. There I became angry and decided this was enough harassment. It wasn't clear how or why he singled me out and decided that I needed to have my shift cut, he and another female I observed they shared an office together usually on every shift. I made it clear that I would balance a very good termination and quit just as well as they could manage to hinder any apparent security. I had just observed my co-worker who was one of the head supervisors on the shift in a frenzy as she was the actual one running me through all of this. I asked her several times during the whole thing if she was okay and if something was wrong with her and she kept up changing her mind about the next thing I should do as she didn't consider that it was time for my break. At this time it was definitely approaching my break time. I wouldn't have cut out of my shift because I didn't have any more hours to cover me, so that I would not be penalized for punching out. The next day I took it on myself to call out running late and sick until I discussed with the manager on a telephone call that I cannot cover any more missing time without there being a penalty. I was told that I don't have to worry I would now be put on Admin. Leave for the days I am scheduled to work from then on and the company will make sure that any of my hours I had planned on my schedule to keep me in good standing with the company she would apply the hours for me through administrative leave and cover any outstanding balance. I felt it was my responsibility to still call the call out line and have them know I would now be calling out for this day totally. The day before I was confronted by 2 team leaders with no good reason for the confrontation. Also it was roughly about my break time when I was given more assignments at random from a supervisor on the shift. My break time was becoming effective in not being ready for me as it was set on my schedule. Someone else usually gets to take their break on my schedule instead of me. ex. Somebody pregnant or a seemingly dominant male figure, even gay or non gay.

Supplemental Information

If I were to say the reason for the action being taken against me I believe it was to introduce me to Admin Leave and also I did not utilize the areas they have for stepping up more to being supervisor and team leader. I only did a good job and kept up with effective time management and skill. It was clear that we were gambling with I quit I'm fired and either one would become a decision for both parties. I was becoming an outcast they were sure they could depend on.

Additional observation on Discrimination, Retaliatory attacks and Emotional Distress Categories.

There was a female named Shakira and you can only use the Kronos app. (an app we have to download to maintain our official schedules. Everyone at the company definitely has it and definitely can refer to it for any schedules) as a means of proof of this situation on Dec. 7, 2019. I believe this situation is a retaliatory directly connected with an incident that occurred with me and Shakira less than 60 days ago from Dec.7th,2019. I don't remember the actual date but they have it documented anyway. It came to a dispute about my break time and they had it scheduled incorrectly and Shakira was the Head Cashier on this day and she was in charge of breaking the cashiers in a timely fashion and maintaining scheduled

break times also for herself as well as others. It became personal when she stated to me that I had an attitude while my break is not on her schedule for the correct time. I was being discriminated on as a cashier also because I was not a supervisor or team leader also when it came to breaks my breaks were mostly either behind schedule or off schedule or even before schedule and so this maybe why I would always keep a more effective time management record and even assist in breaking when I was told to do so even when I was not the head cashier in charge. Things I observed and openly spoke with and about to team members, team leaders and even customers were that registers always going down in the middle of transactions and long lines. By September of 2019 there had already been at least ten registers broken at one time. Any or all these things were still the same at the time of my complaint to the EEOC and could have been identified right then. There was also too much hanging out by the stores side exit by Warren Street and about the freezer area. We spoke about register 4 on the local side being broken, register 6, registers 14 and 15 on the local side are broken the telephone does not work in order to contact a customer service member in case of customer emergencies and also the self service light on these registers were not working or even in tact at all. Any employee that works their goes through the same thing. Also registers 10 and 11 on the local the light is not working and we have to alert customers ourselves that our lines are open because they can't tell with no light or they have to ask. Also register 8 and 7 are broken and the lights are not working and also the same with register number 1 on the local side was broken and the light was not working. Any express register from 1 to 5 is completely out of order everyday all day without a doubt completely. This is the order I noted this as I was becoming aware and disturbed by this. They're main goals would be to keep effective record of punching in and punching out and missed punches and this means if you make no effort at all to keep up yourself then you are the entire victim their making. There is also proof of poor time keeping on their behalves.



Complete if claim involves a NYC vehicle

Owner of vehicle claimant was traveling in

Last Name:

First Name:

Address

Address 2:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Insurance Information

Insurance Company
 Name:

Address

Address 2:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Policy #:

Phone #:

**Description of
 claimant:**

- ☐ Driver ☐ Passenger
☐ Pedestrian ☐ Bicyclist
☐ Motorcyclist ☐ Other

Non-City vehicle driver

Last Name:

First Name:

Address

Address 2:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Non-City vehicle information

Make, Model, Year
 of Vehicle:

Plate #:

VIN #:

City vehicle information

Plate #:

City Driver Last
 Name:

City Driver First
 Name:

***Total Amount
 Claimed:**

2,000,000.00

Format: Do not include "\$" or ",".

Feb. 27, 2020

Date

Melissa Newton

Signature of Claimant

MELISSA M. NEWTON

State of New York
 County of New York

I, Melissa Newton

being duly sworn depose and say that I have read the foregoing
 NOTICE OF CLAIM and know the contents thereof: that same is true to the best of my own knowledge, except as to the matter here stated
 to be alleged upon information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe them to be true.

Sworn before me this day 27 of February 2020

Signature of
 Claimant Melissa Newton

ANDREA JACKSON
 Notary Public State of New York
 Reg. No. 04JA6398025

Andrea Jackson

* Denotes required field(s).

Qualified in New York County
 Commission Expires September 16, 2023

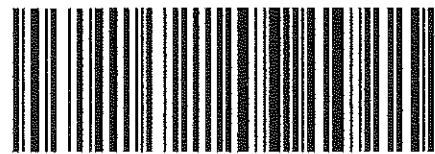
FROM:

Melissa Newton
172 Fifth Ave. #132
Brooklyn, NY 11217

7019 2970 0001 8891 4688

PLACE STICKER AT TOP OF ENVELOPE TO THE RIGHT
OF THE RETURN ADDRESS. FOLD AT DOTTED LINE

CERTIFIED MAIL



7019 2970 0001 8891 4688

TO:

US District Court Southern Court District
500 Pearl St.
New York, NY 10007



1000



10007

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FCM LG ENV
BROOKLYN, NY
11201
MAY 13, 20
AMOUNT
\$5.35
R2304H107575-27

PRO SE
INTAKE
CWP

USDC
SDNY
MAY 21 2020

PRO SE OFFICE
MAY 21 2020
RECEIVED

Utility Mailer
10 1/2" x 16"

ReadyPost